

HEROES

CHAPTER 152

THE PAINTED LADY

Amanda has tracked down her birth mother, Lydia, at the carnival. Lydia tries to convince her daughter the Carnival is no place for a young girl to grow up but Amanda feels she has finally found a place where she fits in. Fearing her daughter has fallen into Samuel's clutches for good, Lydia makes a last ditch effort to connect with her daughter...



I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ME, AMANDA. BUT I'M YOUR MOTHER SO YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR ME OUT.

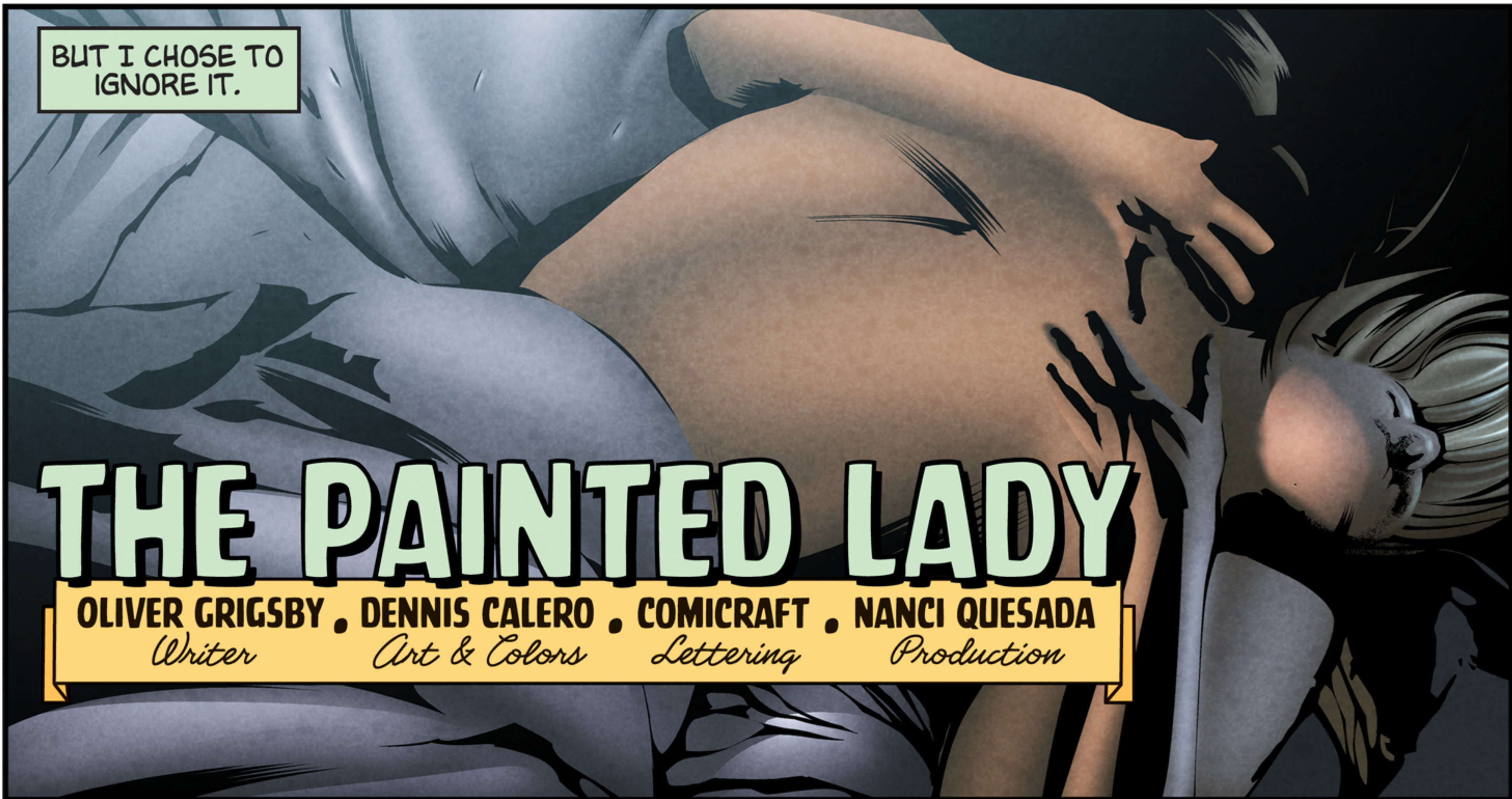


I WANT TO TELL YOU MY STORY.



I LOVE YOU, LYDIA.

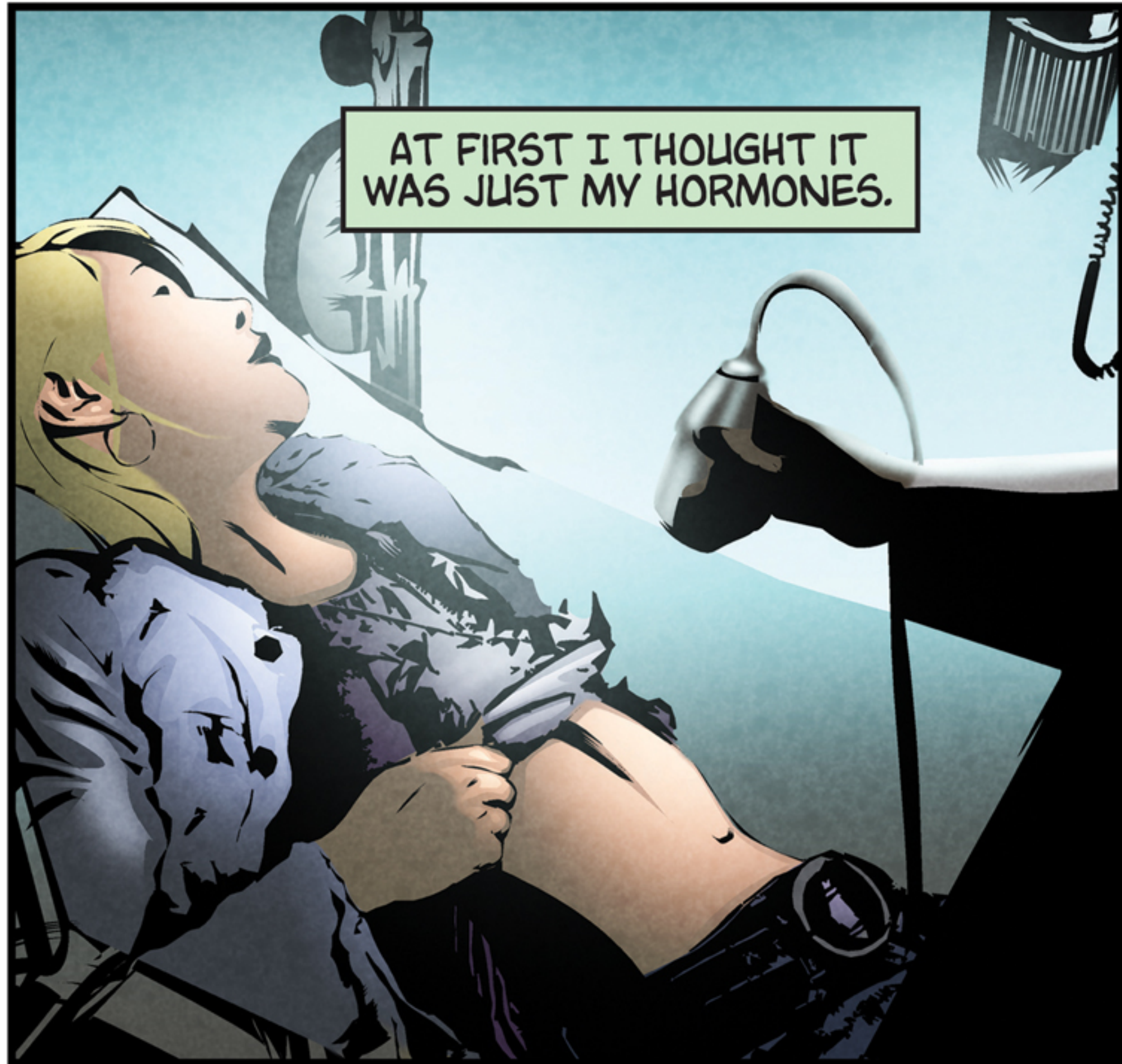
DEEP DOWN, I COULD *FEEL* HE WASN'T TELLING THE TRUTH.



BUT I CHOSE TO IGNORE IT.

THE PAINTED LADY

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Writer Art & Colors Lettering Production



AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT
WAS JUST MY HORMONES.



BUT I CAME TO REALIZE I
COULD *FEEL* OTHER PEOPLES
WANTS AND DESIRES.



AND HE
WANTED
TO RUN.

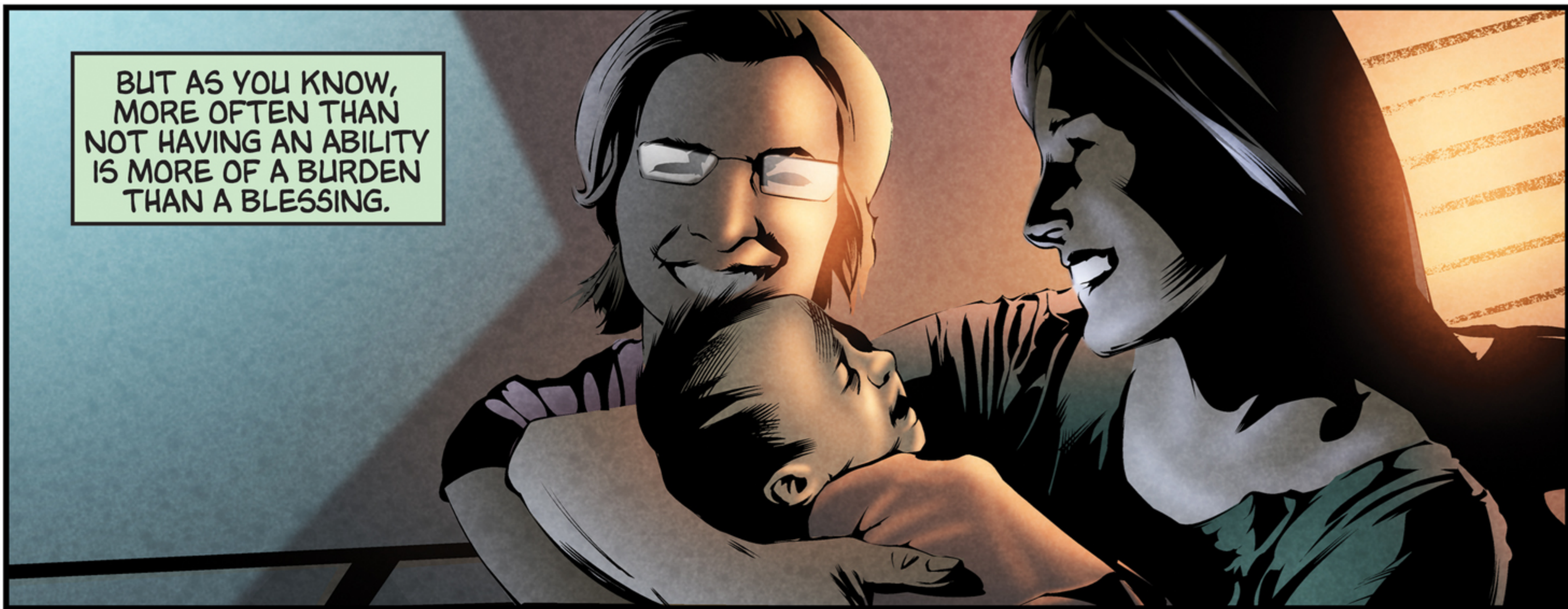
SO I RAN
FIRST.



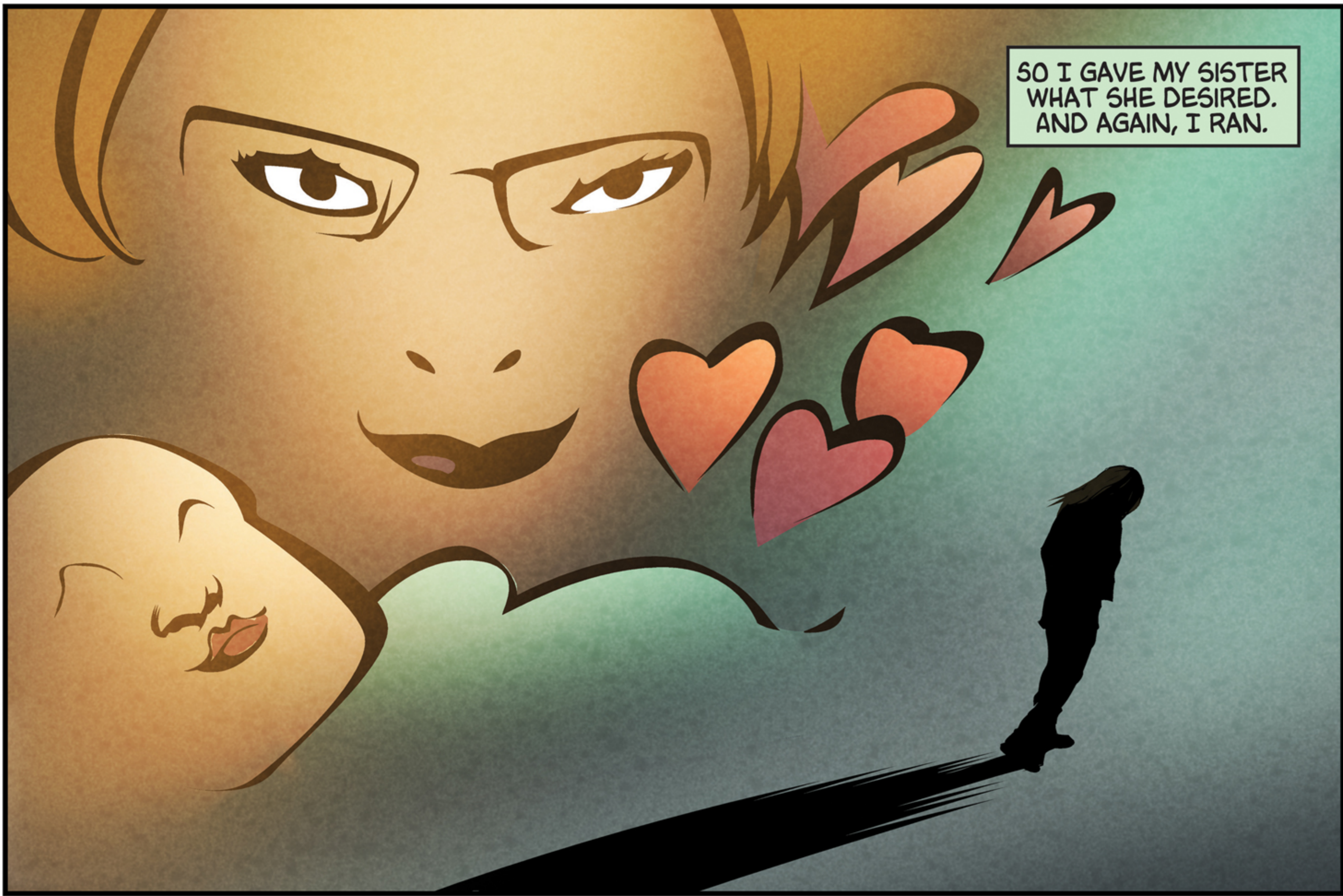
I TRIED GOING HOME.
TELLING THE TRUTH.



WHICH IS HOW I CAME TO LIVE
WITH CAROL. THE BIG SISTER I
COULD ALWAYS DEPEND ON.



BUT AS YOU KNOW,
MORE OFTEN THAN
NOT HAVING AN ABILITY
IS MORE OF A BURDEN
THAN A BLESSING.



SO I GAVE MY SISTER
WHAT SHE DESIRED.
AND AGAIN, I RAN.



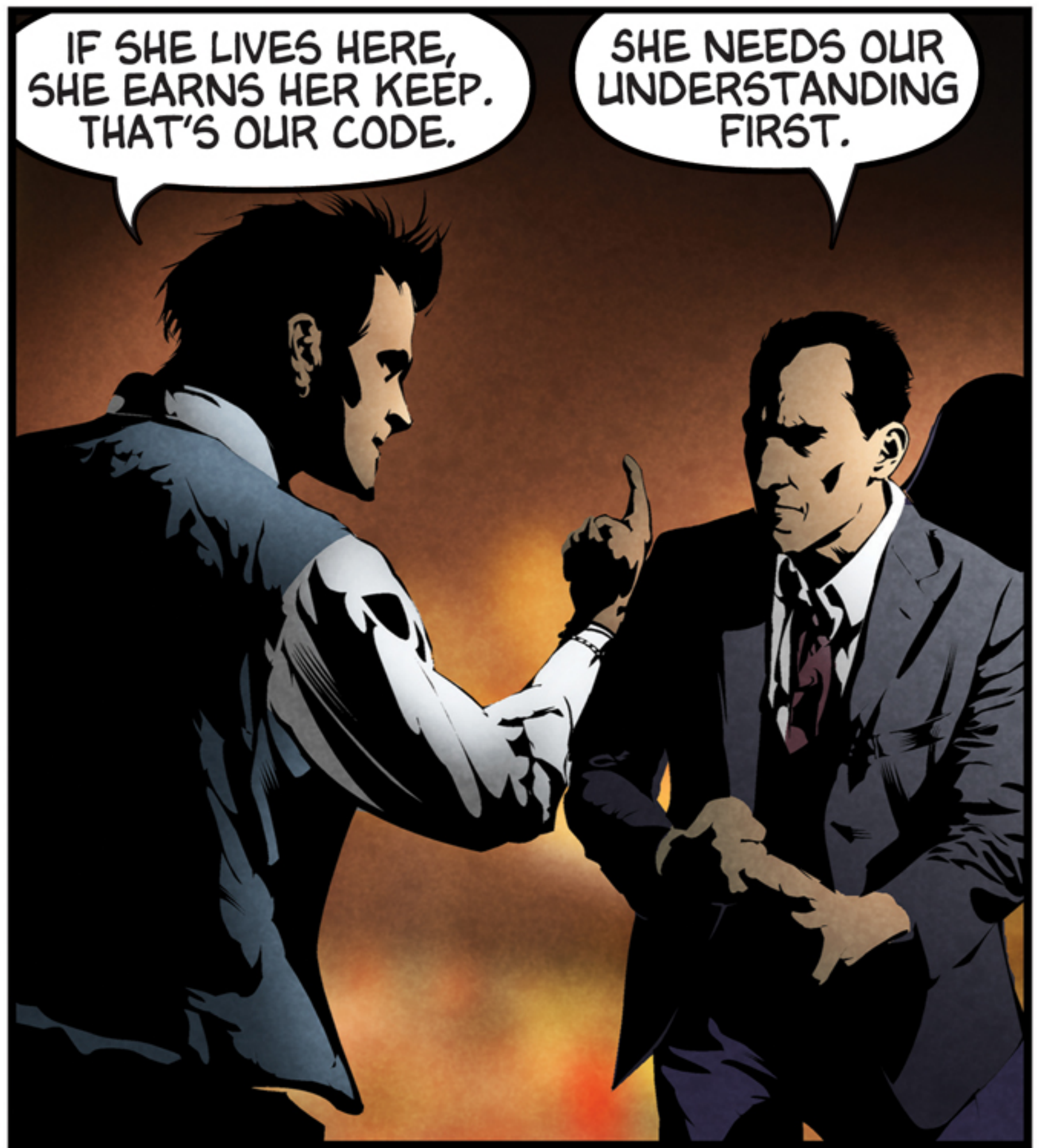
AND THAT'S
WHEN I MET
JOSEPH.

TONIGHT,
THE COST OF
ADMISSION IS BUT
A SMILE.

JUST BEING IN HIS
PRESENCE MADE
ME FEEL BETTER.



HE TRULY WANTED TO
HELP PEOPLE LIKE US.

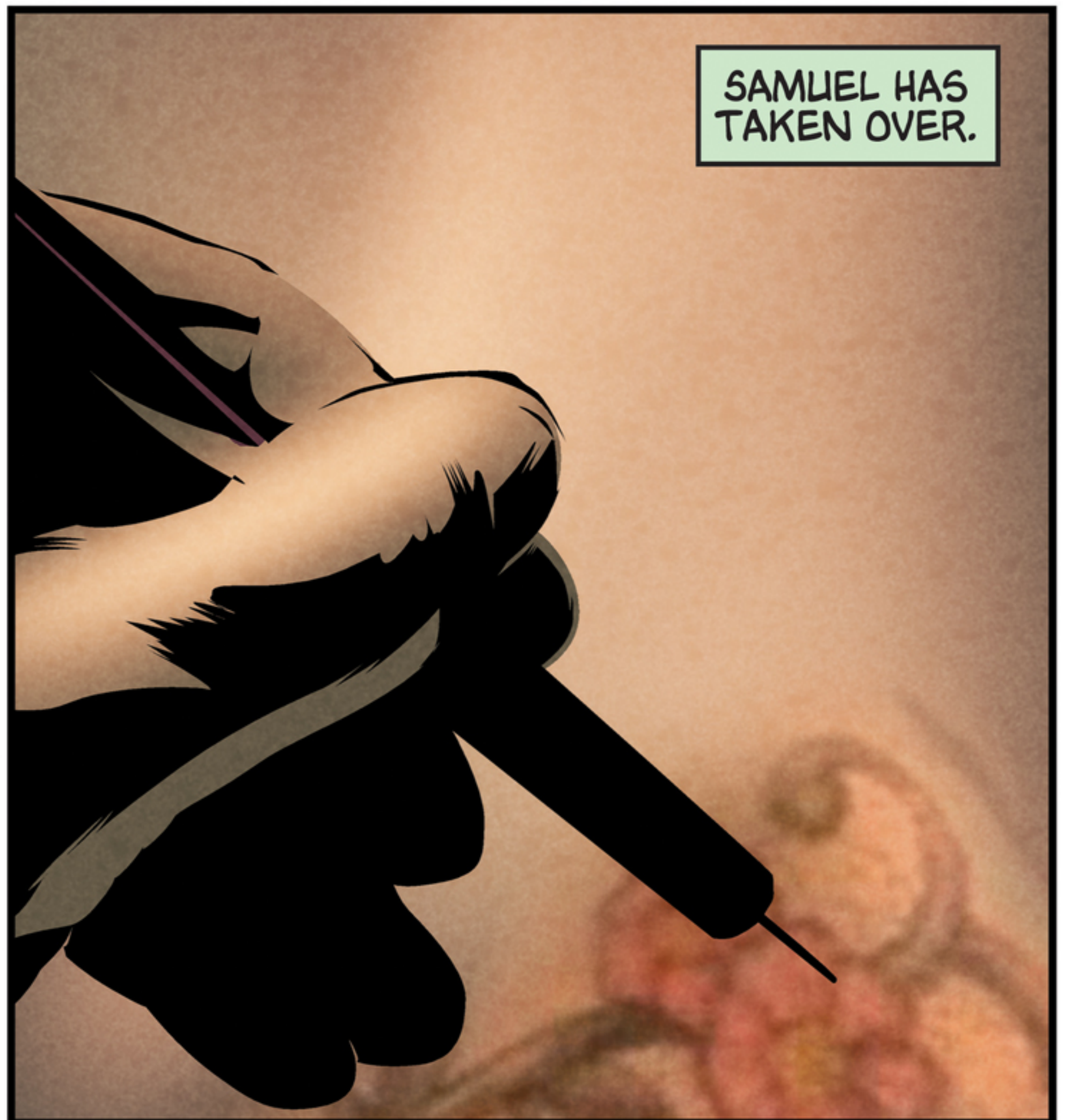


IF SHE LIVES HERE,
SHE EARN'S HER KEEP.
THAT'S OUR CODE.

SHE NEEDS OUR
UNDERSTANDING
FIRST.



BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED
HERE SINCE HE DIED.



SAMUEL HAS
TAKEN OVER.

A man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, stands in a green, misty environment. He has a long, bushy fox tail behind him. He is looking upwards with a determined and intense expression, his fists clenched. Above him is a large, dark, jagged rock formation. Several bright green energy beams or lightning bolts are striking the rock, creating a dramatic and powerful scene. The background is a deep blue sky with some clouds.

I CAN FEEL HIS
DESIRE FOR POWER
GROWING.



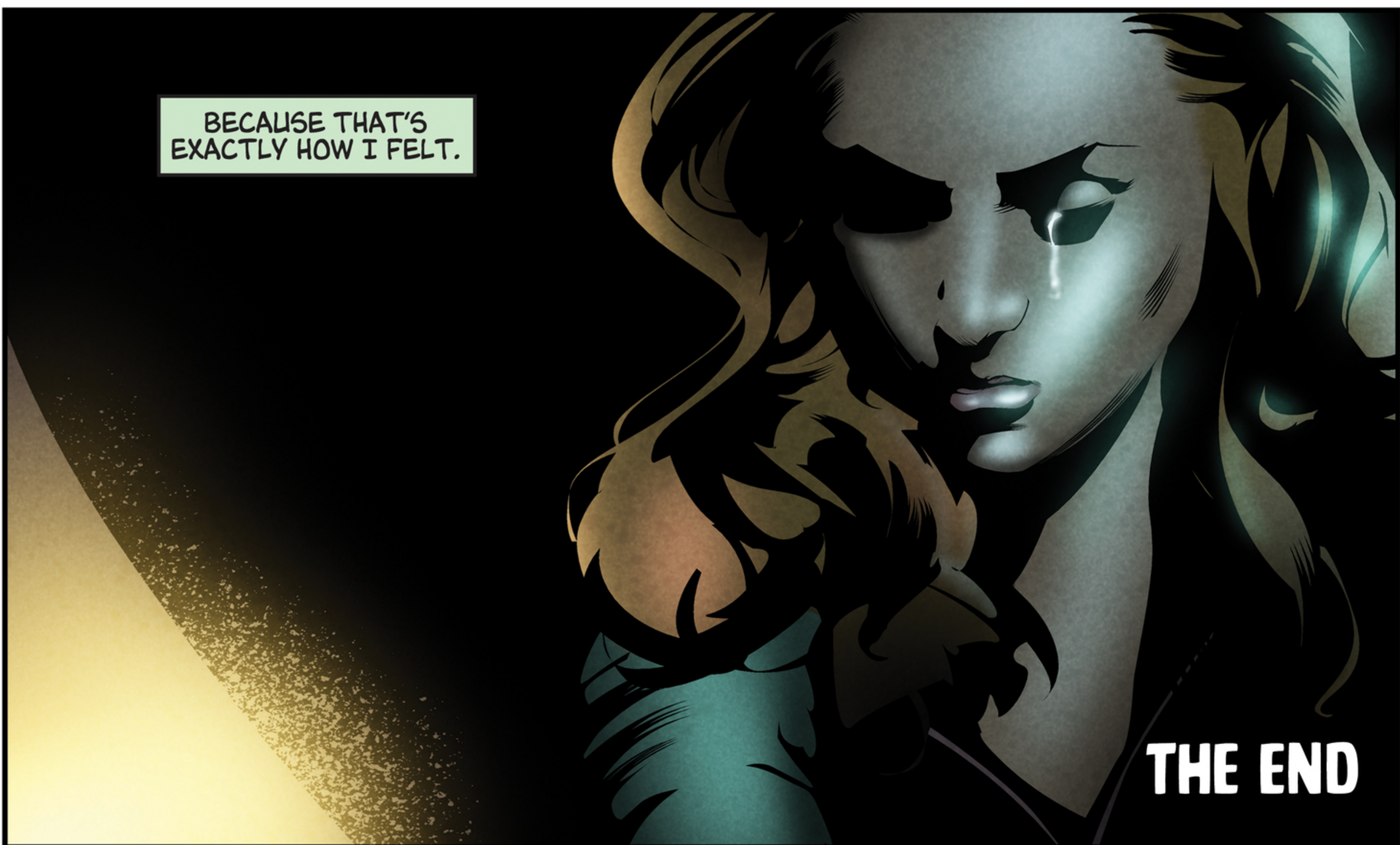
I KNOW YOU FEEL
I HARDLY QUALIFY
AS YOUR MOTHER.



BUT I STILL WANT TO PROTECT YOU
FROM REPEATING THE MISTAKES I MADE.



I DON'T EVEN NEED
MY ABILITY TO KNOW
YOU SEE THIS PLACE
AS THE ONE RAY OF
HOPE IN YOUR LIFE.



BECAUSE THAT'S
EXACTLY HOW I FELT.

THE END